

Connect Group Notes

Sermon: Do we have to be good before God loves us?

Reading: Romans 5:1-11

Date: 3rd March 2024 (AM)

Has anyone had any answers to prayer in the last week that they can share with the group? Share any personal prayer requests and spend a few minutes praying for one another.

Read Romans 5:1-11

1. "Peace with God" (Rom. 5:1) and "Peace of God" (Phil. 4:7) - What's the difference? Why can Christians enjoy both?
2. Look up Psalm 24 and 130 - what do they say about "standing in God's presence"? We are told, v.2 that we have access to God and stand in his grace - how should this truth encourage us and inform our experience?
3. Follow the logic of v.3-5 (see also James 1:2-4). In what ways can we be shaped and grow through sufferings? Have you faced suffering which has increased your hope?
4. In chapters 1, 2, 3 and 4 there were warnings about 'boasting' - see if you can spot the verses. Why then does Paul say "we also boast" in v.11? In what ways might it be appropriate for us to 'boast'?
5. A Christian friend tells you that they don't feel able to come to church because they've 'failed' this week. Another friend, a non-Christian says that they would 'love to have your faith' but they have 'too dark a past' to be accepted. How might you use this passage to lovingly encourage your friends?

Pray

- *At our prayer meeting this week (6th March) we will be praying for; Easter Holiday Club, Seniors Ministry and Diocese of South Rwenzori, Uganda.*